

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 CU-02 ISO-00 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /024 W

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R 030713Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8663

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

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SUBJECT: "ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL"

1. FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION OF DEPARTMENT:

2. ON JULY 31, NORMAL PEARLSTINE, MANAGING EDITOR OF "ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL" ("AWSJ") TELEPHONED PAO FROM HONG KONG. PEARLSTINE TOLD PAO THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER ROKG INTENDED TO GRANT LICENSE TO "AWSJ'S" DISTRIBUTOR IN SEOUL AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTOR TO IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTE "AWSJ" WITHIN KOREA. PEARLSTINE SAID THAT ON EARLIER TRIP TO SEOUL HE HAD RECEIVED ORAL ASSURANCES FROM MINISTER CULTURE AND INFORMATION (MCUI) THAT LICENSE TO IMPORT WOULD BE AUTHORIZED. HE HAD, HOWEVER, HEARD NOTHING FROM SEOUL ON THE SUBJECT AND ASKED PAO TO CHECK INFORMALLY, ADDING THAT KOREA WAS ONLY COUNTRY IN ASIA THAT HAD NOT YET GRANTED LICENSE TO IMPORT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TIME WAS GROWING SHORT SINCE "AWSJ" WOULD BEGIN PRINTING IN SEPTEMBER.

3. AFTER CHECKING, PAO, THROUGH MEANS OF CABLE TO PAO FRIEDMAN IN HONG KONG, PASSED FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PEARLSTINE WITH REQUEST THAT HE NOT IDENTIFY SUSIS AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND THAT PEARLSTINE'S DISTRIBUTOR IN SEOUL BE PROTECTED SINCE HE WAS SOLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION: ON JULY 28 PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF MCUI HAD TURNED DOWN DISTRIBUTOR'S REQUEST FOR LICENSE TO IMPORT WVAWSJ" IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR
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FOREIGN PERIODICALS.

4. PAO TOLD PEARLSTINE THAT TURNDOWN MIGHT BE PART OF NEW CULTURAL PURIFICATION DRIVE IN KOREA OR THAT ROKG OFFICIALS WANTED A LITTLE TIME TO LOOK OVER JFAWSJ" FOR CONTENT BEFORE AGREEING TO ITS IMPORTATION. HE ADVISED PEARLSTINE TO WRITE PERSONAL LETTER TO DEPUTY PM EPB NAM DUCK WOO ASKING FOR HIS ASSISTANCE. LATTER SUGGESTION WAS MADE SINCE BOTH PEARLSTINE AND PAO WERE AWARE THAT NAM INTENSELY INTERESTED IN SEEING "AWSJ" IMPORTED INTO KOREA BASED ON CONVERSATIONS AMONG NAM, PAO AND PEARLSTINE DURING EARLIER PEARLSTINE VISIT.

5. FYI. DISTRIBUTOR BELIEVES DECISION REJECT LICENSE WAS MADE BY MCUI MINISTER HIMSELF. END FYI.

6. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT PEARLSTINE MAY ASK FOR MORE ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY. IF THIS OCCURS WILL CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOR GUIDANCE BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH GREATER ASSISTANCE FOR "AWSJ".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS, LICENSES, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, MAGAZINES
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Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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